

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BORD NA gCON ON WED. 10TH DECEMBER 2008

The meeting was held at the Abbey Court Hotel, Nenagh. It commenced at 4.00p.m. and concluded at 7.45p.m.

Present: Dick O'Sullivan, Chairman
Tim Gilbert, Tony McKenna, Billy O'Dwyer, Danny Reilly and Teresa Wall, Board Members. Adrian Neilan, CEO and Mary Conway.

Apology for inability to attend was received from Frank O'Connell.

5. Financial:

CEO outlined the Consolidated year to date position as follows:-

	<u>Budget:</u>	<u>Actual:</u>	<u>Variance:</u>
Central Costs	6.324m	6.268m	+56k
Tote	4.885m	3.612m	-1.3m
Tracks	1.041m	737k	-404k
Consolidated:	4.649m	3.423m	-1.2m

Year to date Attendances are 11.7% below 2007 figures. Tote is 7.7% below 2007 target. The net tote contribution will be €4.5m and an overall figure of a surplus of €4.6m was projected for 2008. Tony McKenna commented that that would represent an excellent result given the economic conditions that exists.

6. Budget 2009:

CEO circulated to Chairman and Members list of proposed cost savings for 2009 as a result of the reduction in the Horse and Greyhound Fund in 2009. The full year effect of these savings is €2.1m. Chairman and Members approved these cost savings and returned their copies of the document to the CEO.

Chairman indicated that the CEO, Jim O'Dwyer, Paddy Ryan and Patricia Griffin had agreed a voluntary 5% pay cut for 2009. In 2010 the 5% cut would be returned to these people assuming no other direction was given by the Department with respect to executive pay. In addition if the surplus was delivered in 2009 (subject to no further changes in Funding for 2009) then any excess money generated would be used to compensate these people for this voluntary cut. A wage freeze will also be put in place for 12 months in respect of salaries over €50,000.

It was agreed that the surplus target of €5.5m for 2009 agreed at the Board Meeting in September, should be amended to €4.75m based upon the reduction of the fund and the economic projections for the year ahead.

7. Horse & Greyhound Fund:

Concern was expressed regarding the uncertainty of the Horse and Greyhound Fund from 2010 onwards. Chairman and Members stressed that the continuation of the Fund is vital for the Board to plan for the future.



11. Developments:

(a) Limerick:

On the proposition of Tony McKenna, seconded by Teresa Wall, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of the preferred tenderer for the contract to fill the Greenpark site for a total contract value of €870K.

(b) VAT – Limerick Site:

Deloitte & Touche were requested to appeal a VAT ruling on the new site for the Greyhound track in Limerick. If successful this would return circa €200K to the Board.

(c) Markets Field:

It was noted that the Chairman and CEO would meet with John Delaney, FAI later that evening to discuss plans for the sale of the Markets Field.

(d) Clonmel:

Clonmel have indicated they propose to submit their planning application by the end of January 2009. Any grant-aid from the Board to Clonmel will be conditional on the Horse & Greyhound Fund being renewed. Clonmel have indicated that they are prepared to borrow but will require a letter of comfort from Bord na gCon. The Board could not give any commitment to Clonmel

21. Freedom of Information Request:

CEO advised that a FOI request in relation to travel was being processed at present. The Chairman said that as a result of this request that he wanted to apply strict Corporate Governance to all travel aspects. Hence from this date going forward he would take responsibility for signing off all director's expense claims.